

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 051029Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8938
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO
SUBJECT: MORE ON PORTUGAL

REF: MOSCOW 4445 (NOTAL)

1. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR NEVES HAD TALKS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR
VIMONT AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR GARVEY SHORTLY AFTER HIS CALL ON
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ME (REFTEL). NEVES SAID THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH GROMYKO ON

APRIL 1, THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER HAD GIVEN HIM FERVENT ASSURANCES OF SOVIET NON-INTERVENTION IN THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION--THUS REPEATING THE ASSURANCE HE HAD GIVEN NEVES BEFORE THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT. NEVES REITERATED TO VIMONT THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN A COMMUNIST PARTY TAKEOVER IN PORTUGAL, SINCE IT WOULD SPELL THE END OF DETENTE.

2. NEVES SAID HE DID NOT KNOW ON WHOSE INITIATIVE THE VISIT OF PCP SECRETARY PATO HAD BEEN ARRANGED. HE SPECULATED THAT PATO MAY HAVE BEEN SENT FOR BY THE SOVIETS TO BE ADMONISHED THAT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY SHOULD NOT TAKE A FORWARD POSITION IN THE CURRENT SITUATION. NEVES OBSERVED THAT IT WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING THAT PATO HAD COME TO MOSCOW SINCE THE NATURAL PERSON TO SEND WOULD HAVE BEEN INGLES, WHO, NEVES SAID, WAS THE PCP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW FOR MANY YEARS.

3. NEVES SAID THAT KOSYGIN HAD TOLD LABOR MINISTER COSTA MARTINS THAT AS PART OF THEIR ASSURANCES ON ECONOMIC AID, THE SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO GIVE ORDERS TO THE IDLE PORTUGUESE SHIPYARDS IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM GOING.

4. NEVES REITERATED TO THE TWO AMBASSADORS A POINT HE HAD ALSO MADE TO ME--THAT HE HAD FOUND EVERYBODY IN THE PORTUGUESE LEADERSHIP DEAD TIRED. HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS A GREAT CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY AND HE FELT THAT THERE WOULD BE A VIOLENT SOLUTION OF SOME KIND IN PORTUGAL.

5. NEVES DESCRIBED NEW PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARTUNES AS A MAN OF THE THIRD WORLD AND VERY SYMPATHETIC TO THIRD WORLD CONCERNS.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT HAS A REPORT THAT THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY HAS INTERVENED TO CALM DOWN THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY OUT OF FEAR THAT A RAPID MOVE TO THE LEFT IN PORTUGAL COULD STRENGTHEN REACTIONARY FORCES IN SPAIN. VIMONT THINKS THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY MIGHT ALSO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE PCP, BUT DOUBTED THAT THE FRENCH CP, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS VERY TIMID, WOULD FOLLOW SUIT.

7. THE SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE PORTUGAL FAIRLY HIGH
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VISIBILITY. PRAVDA (APRIL 3) CARRIES A COMMENTARY ON WESTERN CONERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL BY THE PAPER'S LISBON CORRESPONDENT, YERMAKOV. THE ARTICLE POINTS PARTICULARLY AT NATO ANXIETIES AS EXEMPLIFIED BY LUNS' SPEECH IN NAPLES, AND SAYS THAT THIS "ATTENTION" IS A VEILED ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

8. YERMAKOV MAKES TWO OTHER KEY POINTS: (1) THE PROFESSED

WESTERN CONCERN ABOUT "DEMOCRACY" IN PORTUGAL IS HOLLOW SINCE SUCH CONCERN WAS NEVER VOICED DURING THE DAYS OF THE RIGHTIST DICTATORSHIP. IN ANY CASE, SAYS YERMAKOV, PREPARATIONS ARE GOING FORWARD FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. (2) THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN ABOUT PORTUGAL'S TIES WITH NATO; PORTUGAL HAS SAID THAT IT WILL ABIDE BY ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, AND IS NOT CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. YERMAKOV GOES ON TO WAFFLE THIS POINT BY SAYING THAT THE QUESTION OF NATO MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL TRENDS TOWARD DETENTE AND COOPERATION. YERMAKOV DOES NOT MENTION THE USG NOR DOES HE REFER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT REMARKS ON US CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. HE IS ALSO SILENT ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

9. PRAVDA APRIL 4 NOTES THE VISIT TO LISBON OF THE SOVIET SHIP "LATVIA," CALLING IT THE FIRST VISIT BY A SOVIET PASSENGER SHIP SINCE THE APRIL REVOLUTION.

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